

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed on June 8, 2005, claims 11-15 and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In addition, claims 1-10 and 16-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,105,780 to Richardson, and claims 1, 3-16, and 18-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,985,192 to O'Marra.

By this Amendment, claims 7, 11, and 25 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-29 remain pending in this application. No new matter has been added to the application by this Amendment.

Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Claim 7 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Favorable consideration of this claim amendment is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 11-15 and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, "as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicant(s) regard as their invention." Applicants have amended claims 11 and 25 to clarify that the claimed plate member is attached to the electrode of the spark plug. Support for these amendments

can be found, for example, in Fig. 4 of the originally filed application. In light of the amendments to claims 11 and 25, Applicants hereby respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,105,780 to Richardson (hereinafter referred to as "Richardson"). In light of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102 the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present (M.P.E.P. 706.02). Applicants respectfully submit that Richardson fails to teach or suggest every aspect recited in independent claims 1 and 16. More particularly, Applicants respectfully submit that Richardson does not disclose the structure of the ignition chamber of the spark plug being substantially positioned within the combustion chamber substantially external of the cylinder head as presently recited in claims 1 and 16.

The Examiner states that Richardson discloses a spark plug inherently "mounted in an engine block through the mounting though not shown in the drawings." (Office Action pg 2.) Applicants submit that this assertion does not address the location of the ignition chamber of the spark plug with respect to the cylinder head. Richardson is completely silent regarding the location of the ignition chamber with respect to a cylinder head of the engine. Accordingly, Richardson cannot anticipate the structure of said

ignition chamber of said spark plug being substantially positioned within said combustion chamber substantially external of said cylinder head as claimed in independent claims 1 and 16.

In light of the foregoing arguments, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 16 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Richardson is respectfully requested, along with the rejection of claims 2-10 and 17-24 that depend from claims 1 and 16.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1, 3-16 and 18-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 1,985,192 to O'Marra (hereinafter referred to as "O'Marra"), Applicants submit that O'Marra also fails to disclose or suggest the structure of the ignition chamber of the spark plug being substantially positioned within the combustion chamber substantially external of the cylinder head as presently claimed in independent claims 1 and 16.

O'Marra discloses a spark plug mounted to an engine such that the distal end of the spark plug is flush with the cylinder head. See Fig. 1 of O'Marra. Thus, O'Marra clearly teaches away from the structure of the ignition chamber of the spark plug being substantially positioned within the combustion chamber substantially external of the cylinder head as claimed in independent claims 1 and 16.

In light of the foregoing arguments, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by O'Marra is respectfully requested, along with claims 3-15 and 18-29 that depend from claims 1 and 16.

CONCLUSION

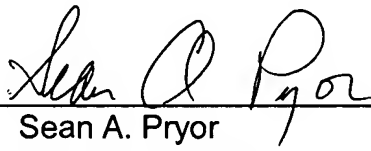
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned agent at 202-408-6023 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned agent is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 8, 2005

By: 
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Reg. No. 48,103